STATE OF OREGON

Department of Environmental Quality

Food Waste Infrastructure Program (FWIP)
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Questions and Answers

Proposal Due Date and Time: Nov. 30, 2026 (5 p.m. PT)

Single Point of Contact (SPC): foodwastegrants@deq.oregon.gov

WebGrants

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Frequently Used Abbreviations

BABA - Build America, Buy America

BOLI - Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

CERTA - Climate Equity and Resilience Through Action

DEQ - Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FWIP - Food Waste Infrastructure Program

GHG - Greenhouse gas

NOFO - Notice of Funding Opportunity

Large-Scale Pre-Bid Conference Questions

1. **Will you share the PPT from today?**

   DEQ Response: Yes, the PowerPoint for both pre-bid conferences are located on our Food Waste Infrastructure Grant website.

2. **How does selecting Subgrant vs. PSC affect an application's competitiveness compared with applicants selecting the other funding type?**

   DEQ Response: The same scoring criteria applies to all Large-Scale applications and is not dependent on funding instrument selected.

3. **Can we apply for grant funding for large-scale aerobic composting vs. anaerobic digestion?**

   DEQ Response: Yes, both aerobic composting and anaerobic digestion are eligible projects.

4. **Once more please explain the difference between the Subgrant and PSC applications.**

   DEQ Response: Please see the definition of each funding instrument in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

5. **Can the same applicant apply for both the Large-Scale and Small-Scale opportunities for the same location?**

   DEQ Response: DEQ can accept one application per applicant, per facility location (companies that operate multiple facilities must apply for separate grants for each individual facility).

6. **Is there significant scoring weight for innovative uses of GHG emissions from digesters?**

   DEQ Response: Please see the Scoring Table and Methodology in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

7. **What cost-effectiveness threshold is DEQ trying to meet in $/ton of GHG emissions reduced, or $/ton of food waste diverted?**

   DEQ Response: DEQ does not have a specific cost-effectiveness threshold, but instead is focused on awarding funding to projects that will result in the greatest overall reduction in GHG emissions.

8. Is there a specific cost effectiveness ratio that DEQ is looking for?

DEQ Response: DEQ does not have a specific cost-effectiveness ratio target, but instead is focused on awarding funding to projects that will result in the greatest overall reduction in GHG emissions.

9. What is the cost-effectiveness ratio outlined in the CERTA grant for emissions reduced from food-waste investments under this program?

DEQ Response: Please see the description of the Cost Effectiveness Ratio in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

10. What if you can't identify how much food waste is going to come in? Composters can create capacity but cannot ensure incoming feedstock.

DEQ Response: Projections should be done with strong and defined methodology as part of a good-faith estimate.

11. Will a seafood processor seeking to divert its waste stream from landfill apply?

DEQ Response: Composting fish waste may be eligible as long as the project results in a measurable increase in food waste diverted from landfill and sent to a processing method such as composting.

Small-Scale Pre-Bid Conference Questions

12. Will the presentation be provided?

DEQ Response: Yes, the PowerPoints for both pre-bid conferences are located on our Food Waste Infrastructure Grant website:

13. Can funding be used to purchase property?

DEQ Response: No. Land/property acquisition is not an eligible expense.

14. Are letters of recommendation/support limited to two?

DEQ Response: Applicants are welcome to include additional letters of support beyond the two that are asked for in the application. Applications with more than the required two letters of support will not receive additional points beyond those outlined in the rubric. Please include mention of these letters in your response narrative.

15. Is there any distinction between pre-consumer and post-consumer?

DEQ Response: For the purposes of this grant, both pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste are considered eligible feedstocks.

16. We are a nonprofit that supports schools in sustainability and climate action efforts. If we were to apply for this grant, it would be for supporting multiple schools in integrating food waste management practices (such as industrial composting, increased local food resources for cafeterias, etc.). My question is, would we need specific schools' written commitment to the projects before applying (including all the relevant information for each school in the application)?

DEQ Response: Please provide sufficient information to show engaged partnerships for completing the proposed project. Only the entity applying will be under agreement with DEQ.

17. Are we able to apply for both small and large scale grants?

DEQ Response: DEQ can accept one application per applicant, per facility location (companies that operate multiple facilities must apply for separate grants for each individual facility). Projects must be unique and not overlapping. Federal funding for the same output cannot stack with other sources of federal funding to demonstrate the reduction of Greenhouse Gases. Separate projects can have funding from the same federal source as long as reported GHG reductions are not dependent on each other and each meet program qualifications.

18. Do our solutions require US made technologies?

DEQ Response: DEQ holds the EPA Small Project General Applicability Waiver of Section 70914(a) of P.L. 117-58, Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), which waives BABA requirements for projects less than $250,000. All projects over $249,999 must comply with BABA.

Large-Scale Questions from WebGrants

Please note: Some questions have been reworded or removed where they were duplicative, unclear, or required clarification. Similarly, we did not include technical questions about WebGrants. These adjustments were made to ensure we could provide the most accurate and helpful responses possible.

19. Can DEQ issue BABA waivers?

DEQ Response: DEQ cannot issue or approve BABA waiver requests. The EPA has only approved the Small Projects Waiver for CERTA-funded projects under $250K. The EPA has not approved other types of waivers for CERTA-funded projects. Other federal agencies do not have the authority to approve waivers for CERTA-funded projects. DEQ has been advised that additional or new BABA waivers can take upwards of one year to be reviewed by the EPA. DEQ strongly recommends the inclusion of BABA-compliant infrastructure materials in projects, because projects that require BABA waivers may not be feasible to complete in the project period.

20. I need to know if anaerobic digesters are eligible for funding? It makes sense to me that they would as meat and organ tracts are not consumable and therefore considered food waste. The project would also develop a very needed community program for the disposal of livestock waste that is currently going to a landfill. I appreciate any help you can give me. Thank you,

DEQ Response: Anerobic Digestors are an eligible expense. Below are additional eligible expenses.

<u>Equipment and Installation Costs</u>

- Equipment to increase food waste processing capacity. Examples include, but are not limited to: screeners, grinders, shredders, de-packagers, and below-ground aeration systems.
- Equipment to increase anaerobic digestion capacity. Examples include, but are not limited to: grinders, choppers, pumps, and storage tanks.

<u>Infrastructure</u>

- Infrastructure associated with improving site operations with the increase in food waste feedstock. Examples include, but are not limited to: electrical service upgrades, piping and blower systems, feedstock receiving areas, and leachate management improvements.

21. **When referencing Oregon DEQ Chapter 340 Division 90 Recycling and Waste Reduction 340-090-0010 Definitions we would like to have clarification for "Food waste". The FWIP funding is intended to support investments that expand Oregon's capacity to recover food waste and mitigate organic materials discarded in landfills through infrastructure improvements, equipment purchases, facility upgrades, and community-based composting initiatives. For our potential project, some of the "Food waste" we're targeting is from fish processing plants and want clarification if that falls under Definition (17) or (21). We believe that what is left of the fish after it's being processed could still potentially be used for other products but right now the majority is being thrown away so we believe it's "food waste". The fish processing plants we'd be receiving fish waste from all filet and flash-freeze the fish so what is left is primarily intestines, skins, and heads. For reference, see Local Ocean's 100% Fish Initiative on what can be done with that particular fish waste. What is the "100% Fish" program? (cited from the Local Ocean 100 web page) 100% Fish is the ethos of using everything we already have completely while trying to create the most value possible from it. We adopted this term from our friends at the Iceland Ocean Cluster when we learned how they transformed their economy from a developing country into an industrialized nation**

    DEQ Response: Fish waste fits both the food waste and industrial waste definitions. For the purposes of this EPA grant, the project must show the material is currently going to a landfill in order to calculate the GHG reduction form the landfill diversion.

22. **Will the DEQ be open to offering a second question and answer period? This could be helpful if applicants have follow-up questions after the first round of questions.**

    DEQ Response: DEQ is currently only able to answer questions through this portal at this time.

23. **If a grant recipient identifies a more advantageous food scrap recovery project after submitting an application and being awarded funds, may DEQ allow the funds to be used for the alternate project if it meets all grant requirements?**

    DEQ Response: Subject to federal requirements, funding provided is for approved projects and submitted workplans that were awarded through a competitive process. DEQ may approve minor changes, at their discretion on a case-by-case basis.

24. **Will ESOPs be taken into account as part of the evaluation criteria?**

    DEQ Response: Can you clarify what is meant by ESOPs?

25. **An ESOP is an employee stock ownership plan.**

    DEQ Response: This is currently not a part of the proposal scoring criteria or eligible expense.

26. **Will questions regarding this program continue to be answered, and if so, is this email address the appropriate place to submit them? I noticed that page 8 of the pre-bid conference slides for small-scale and large-scale projects states that "Applicants must submit questions and requests for clarification through WebGrants until October 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m. PT." To confirm my understanding, does this deadline apply only to questions submitted through WebGrants, or were all questions and requests for clarifications required to have been submitted by October 16?**

    DEQ Response: The deadline for NOFO questions and clarification requests has been extended to October 30, 2026 at 5:pm (PT). This extension gives applicants two more weeks to submit questions through WebGrants. Accordingly, the deadline for OR DEQ to finalize and publish a complete list of responses received during this period, including questions received at the Pre-Bid Conferences, will now be November 6, 2026.

    Please be aware that after the October 30, 2026 deadline, DEQ will not be able to respond to additional questions or clarification requests regarding the NOFO or application requirements. Instead, assistance after this deadline will be limited to technical support related to accessing or using the WebGrants Portal.

27. **Do brewery byproducts (trub, spent grain, spent yeast and liquid brewery waste) meet the NOFO's definition of "food waste"? They result from producing beverages for human consumption.**

    DEQ Response: Solid brewery waste may be eligible as long as the project results in a measurable increase in food waste diverted from landfill and sent to a processing method such as composting. For the purposes of this RFP liquid brewery waste is not eligible.

28. **DEQ has said food waste must currently be going to a landfill to count toward GHG reductions. What documentation will DEQ accept to show this? For example: hauler or transfer station disposal records, waste audits, generator letters of intent, or estimates from published waste composition studies.**

    DEQ Response: Any kind of documentation that can show that food waste was formerly going to a landfill. Documentation could be waste hauler, transfer station or landfill disposal records or any audits that could document that food waste was going to a landfill.

29. **If a generator currently sends part of a food waste stream to landfill and manages the rest some other way (land application, animal feed, another compost facility), should Expected Utilization in Table 2 include only the portion now landfilled?**

    DEQ Response: Correct, only the portion landfilled.

30. **May a private applicant propose a new composting facility on land at an existing DEQ-permitted solid waste facility, such as a county transfer station, with the facility owner as a host-site partner? Is that application treated as a "newly proposed composting facility"? Does the existing facility's permit affect eligibility or the one-application-per-location rule?**

    DEQ Response: A composting facility permit would be required, separate from the existing disposal site permit. It would be a new permit. The existing permit does not affect eligibility for a new permit.

31. **For a new facility co-composting food waste with yard debris or wood waste as bulking agent, should Table 1 report capacity for the food waste portion only? May it be calculated from the facility's design mix ratio?**

    DEQ Response: Correct, Table 1 should report capacity for the food waste portion only. Estimate how much food waste and justify the estimate.

32. **At a co-composting facility, are shared items (composting pad, aeration, screens, scales, loaders) eligible in full, or must costs be pro-rated to the food waste share?**

    DEQ Response: There's no need to pro-rate the cost of the equipment or install. The carbon source material is necessary to compost the food waste so all the equipment or install would be necessary.

33. **Is equipment that markets finished compost but adds no processing capacity eligible? Examples: bagging lines, palletizers, finished-product storage.**

    DEQ Response: The proposal must show additional capacity.

34. **Does Build America, Buy America apply to mobile or self-contained equipment such as loaders, trommel screens, windrow turners and mixers? Or only to infrastructure and construction materials permanently built into the site, such as pads, in-ground aeration and buildings?**

    DEQ Response: Applicants are responsible for complying with BABA. BABA applies to this type of equipment.

35. **May applicants buy used equipment with grant funds? If so, how does BABA apply to it?**

    DEQ Response: Applicants are responsible for complying with BABA, including for used equipment.

36. **For a new facility, must the Land Use Compatibility Statement be completed before submission, or is a documented timeline enough for Question 3.2b? If the project will accept Type 3 feedstocks, does DEQ expect the full compost permit to be issued before the award agreement is signed, or only by project completion?**

    DEQ Response: It's required to have all necessary permits (State and Local) prior to the project completion. Because LUCS and permitting can take time, this should be considered for completing the project before April 2029.

37. **Under a subgrant, are engineering, design and permitting costs eligible once the funding agreement is signed? Or are they "pre-project or planning expenses" no matter when they're incurred?**

    DEQ Response: For the purposes of this EPA grant, the project must show the material is currently going to a landfill in order to calculate the GHG reduction form the landfill diversion.

38. **Can a single application include both equipment (PSC-type costs) and construction or site improvements (subgrant-type costs)? If so, should the applicant choose a subgrant for the whole project?**

    DEQ Response: Applicants must choose either subgrants or PSCs, not both. If the applicant chooses a subgrant, then equipment is included as a cost in the subgrant.

39. **Beyond the two required letters of support, may applicants include letters of intent from individual food waste generators or water suppliers? Will reviewers consider them under Question 3.3?**

    DEQ Response: Applicants are welcome to include additional letters of support beyond the two that are asked for in the application. Applications with more than the required two letters of support will not receive additional points beyond those outlined in the rubric. Please include mention of these letters in your response narrative to Question 3.3.

40. **For a new facility starting operations in 2029, should the Dec. 31, 2030 figure in Table 2 be the expected annual processing rate on that date, or actual tons processed during calendar year 2030?**

    DEQ Response: This applies to the tons of food waste accepted during calendar year.

41. **Can a facility based in WA be eligible if it will process additional food waste from Oregon? Does it need to be a DOE (Ecology) regulated facility?**

    DEQ Response: The food waste diverted from landfill must originate from Oregon. All proposed projects must comply with local, state, and federal regulations and permitting requirements.

42. **Can we link accounts in WebGrants portal so more than 1 person can work on application in portal or does all work need to be done outside of WebGrants and 1 individual submits application?**

    DEQ Response: Yes, as long as both registrants are with the same organization/business.

43. **What documentation will DEQ accept to show food waste currently goes to landfill (hauler or transfer station records, waste audits, generator letters, waste composition studies)?**

    DEQ Response: Any kind of documentation that can show that food waste was formerly going to a landfill. Documentation could be waste hauler, transfer station or landfill disposal records or any audits that could document that food waste was going to a landfill.

44. **Beyond the two required letters of support, may applicants include extra letters (individual generators, water suppliers)? Will reviewers consider them under Question 3.3?**

    DEQ Response: Applicants are welcome to include additional letters of support beyond the two that are asked for in the application. Applications with more than the required two letters of support will not receive additional points beyond those outlined in the rubric. Please include mention of these letters in your response narrative to Question 3.3.

45. **Is a landowner letter of intent sufficient site control at submission, or is a signed lease required? (The NOFO only says site authorizations may be required before the agreement.)**

    DEQ Response: For the purposes of the application, a letter of intent from the landlord will be acceptable. Final award will not be granted until applicant is able to share a signed lease agreement.

46. **Under a PSC, are grading, paving, electrical service and leachate/stormwater systems eligible as "related infrastructure"? (The NOFO lists them as eligible expenses but doesn't tie them to the PSC route.)**

    DEQ Response: Participant support costs are for the purchase and installation of commercially available equipment that has a direct impact on methane

reduction. All installation costs must be tied directly to the installation of the equipment, and not be part of other initiatives.

47. Does Oregon prevailing wage (BOLI) apply to PSC-funded projects? (Exhibit H says only "as applicable.")

DEQ Response: It is the awardee's responsibility to determine compliance with BOLI.

48. In regards to an eligible applicant, for a large grant, 1) may a private party/business apply, and 2) if the applicant is not an existing composting or waste disposal facility are they required to have a composting facility permit from DEQ for the proposed project to be eligible to apply?

DEQ Response: Eligible applicants may include:

- OR DEQ-permitted composting and anaerobic digesting facilities that already accept food waste
- OR DEQ-permitted composting and anaerobic digestion facilities seeking to begin accepting food waste
- Newly proposed OR DEQ-permitted composting facilities that will accept food waste
- Tribal composting facilities
- Other OR DEQ-permitted facilities such as waste-water treatment plants and transfer stations/MRFs

If you have a private business, eligibility will depend on a case-by-case basis. All applications must demonstrate that the project will result in an increased capacity to process food waste. If you would like to share more specifics about the business and project idea, we may be able to answer more comprehensively.

49. Thank you for your reply to my previous question. To clarify, does the eligibility category of "Newly proposed OR DEQ-permitted composting facilities that will accept food waste" require that a DEQ permit must exist at the time of application, or can the proposal include acquiring a permit? I assume a permit needs to already exist for a location to be eligible but want to double-check. Thanks!

DEQ Response: A permit does not need to be in place by the time of application. However, applicants must present a feasible timeline for obtaining the permit and being operational before April 2029. Please note that the lead time to obtain DEQ permits may not be sufficient time given the project period.

50. Some food waste may be sent to an anaerobic storage lagoon or a landfill. Both baseline end-uses of food waste emit methane with the amounts of methane emitted quantified using proven methodologies. If a project intends

to divert food waste from anaerobic lagoons where it emits methane into the atmosphere under current operations, and provides a sound methodology to support the methane emissions reduced under the diversion project funded by the DEQ Large Scale Food Waste grant, would this project type be considered eligible?

DEQ Response: The scope of this grant is about GHG reduction through reducing food waste sent to landfills. For this grant, the project that you are describing would not be eligible unless it meets that criteria.

51. **Are combined heat and power equipment considered an eligible project expense if they are a part of an anaerobic digester funded under a Large Scale grant? For example, this type of equipment may be directly used to capture and redirect waste heat to the digester to help maintain temperatures in the digester required for normal operations (and offset imported natural gas or propane - and the associated CO2 emissions from avoided use of these combustion fuels - during cold months for this purpose).**

    DEQ Response: Please refer to the NOFO for eligible expenses. For GHG reductions, only the food waste being diverted from landfills are considered in the cost effectiveness.

52. **Would DEQ consider an extension of the application deadline to the Friday following Thanksgiving (December 4th, 2026)? Given the extension for submitting and responding to questions (10/3 and 11/6, respectively), and the close proximity to the Thanksgiving holiday and weekend, this extension would be both prudent and greatly appreciated by applicants.**

    DEQ Response: No, unfortunately we are not able to extend the application deadline.

53. **If the applicant entity has a current violation with a state permit, does this exclude the entity from being eligible to apply for this grant? What if the violation is not at the facility applying for this grant, although it is owned by the same entity?**

    DEQ Response: All applications will be reviewed for eligibility. A violation does not automatically prevent eligibility.

54. **Is a recording of the October 8 Large-Scale pre-bid conference available?**

    DEQ Response: The Pre-Bid Conference was not recorded but the presentation is available online:

55. **Can technology companies who do not directly handle food waste apply for funding?**

DEQ Response: Program requirements limit eligibility to organizations directly implementing programs that would reduce GHG emissions. Applicants are responsible for describing the technology they will implement or equipment they will install as part of their project. Please review Section 3.3 in either NOFO for information on eligible applicants and information about partnerships.

56. **For a project located at an Oregon DEQ-permitted composting facility, may food waste generated by residents and businesses in Washington and transported to the Oregon facility for composting be included in (1) Expected Utilization and additional food waste recovered under Question 1.2, (2) the food-waste tonnage used in the Question 4.2 Cost Effectiveness Ratio, and (3) applicable landfill-diversion/GHG calculations? In short, must the food waste counted toward those grant outcomes be generated in Oregon? If Washington-generated food waste cannot be counted toward those outcomes, may it nevertheless be included in the application's feedstock projections when demonstrating sufficient material to utilize the proposed processing capacity?**

    DEQ Response: The Washington-generated feedstock must currently be going to a landfill in Oregon to go towards the grant outcomes listed in Questions 1.2 and 4.2.

57. **Thank you for confirming that Washington-generated feedstock may count toward the grant outcomes in Questions 1.2 and 4.2 when that material is currently being disposed at an Oregon landfill. Could DEQ please clarify whether Washington-generated food waste meeting that condition may also be included in the project's landfill-diversion and greenhouse-gas reduction calculations? Additionally, if Washington-generated food waste is not currently being disposed at an Oregon landfill and therefore cannot count toward Questions 1.2 and 4.2, may those tons nevertheless be included in the application's total feedstock projections for purposes of demonstrating sufficient feedstock to utilize the proposed processing capacity, provided they are clearly identified separately from grant-qualifying tons?**

    DEQ Response: Confirming that Washington-generated food waste that is currently going to landfill in Oregon may be included in the calculations related to landfill diversion. The application does not include a question that asks applicants to convert food waste tonnage to GHG emissions reductions. Please clarify the second part of your first question. For total feedstock projections for Expected Utilization, only the food waste that is currently landfilled in Oregon tonnage should be used in these calculations. You may make a note in your narrative about all projected food waste, but no additional points will be awarded.

58. **Thank you. To clarify the second part of the first question, we were asking whether Washington-generated food waste that is currently disposed at an Oregon landfill may be included not only in the landfill-diversion tonnage calculation, but also in any greenhouse-gas reduction calculation requested by the application. We understand from your response that the application does not request applicants to convert food-waste tonnage into GHG emissions reductions, so no additional clarification on that point is needed. We also understand that, for Expected Utilization, only food waste currently landfilled in Oregon should be included in the calculation.**

    DEQ Response: See response to question #57.

59. **May an applicant receive funding for a project requiring a new permit or permit modification if that approval has not yet been issued at the time of application, provided the application identifies the required approvals and demonstrates a reasonable pathway and schedule for obtaining them before construction and operation?**

    DEQ Response: All project requirements must be completed within the project period and any permits or modifications must occur before activities can be completed.

60. **If additional necessary project costs are identified after execution of the funding agreement during final design, permitting, engineering, or construction, may those costs be eligible for grant funding? If so, are there differences in how these costs are treated under a PSC versus a subgrant?**

    DEQ Response: See 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, including 2 CFR 200.433. DEQ retains discretion to approve or reject budgeted costs.

61. **May the project budget include reasonable contingency and cost-escalation allowances for eligible equipment, materials, installation, and construction costs? If so, does DEQ prescribe a maximum contingency percentage, calculation methodology, or method for presenting contingency and escalation in the project budget?**

    DEQ Response: See 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, including 2 CFR 200.433. DEQ retains discretion to approve or reject budgeted costs.

62. **For Question 1.2, Table 1, when proposed composting equipment is rated based on total compost-mixture throughput rather than food-waste-only throughput, should the applicant report the equipment's total design**

throughput, or only the portion attributable to food waste? If only the food-waste portion should be reported, how should that capacity be calculated when the composting process requires bulking agents or other amendments?

DEQ Response: For the quantities listed in the Table 1, please only consider tonnage of food waste. In your narrative describing the methodology for Question 1.2, please note the compost mix proportions with percentage food waste and percentage bulking agents.

63. **An applicant proposes to develop and operate a new food waste composting facility on property it owns. The facility would be operated primarily using existing employees and some existing equipment. Third parties would be contracted for initial design and engineering, provision of materials and equipment necessary to construct the facility, and construction. The project may also require the purchase of initial equipment necessary to begin operations, such as material-handling equipment. For purposes of the grant application, should funding for these initial design, engineering, materials, construction, and start-up equipment costs be requested through the Personal Services Contract (PSC) funding option or the subgrant funding option? During the design, engineering, construction, and initial start-up phases, are there specific types of project costs that would be eligible under one funding option but not the other? If so, please identify those differences.**

DEQ Response: Please see the definition of each funding instrument in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

64. **Will DEQ accept exceptions or proposed modifications to the Exhibit I Subgrant Agreement? If so, must they be submitted with the application, and will taking exceptions affect scoring or eligibility?**

DEQ Response: DEQ is not accepting modifications to the draft subgrant or PSC agreement at this time.

65. **Does signing Exhibit H (Compliance Acknowledgement) at the application stage waive an applicant's ability to negotiate terms of the funding agreement?**

DEQ Response: If applicants are awarded, terms and conditions will be provided by DEQ. All awardees must comply with state and federal regulations.

66. **Does DEQ take the position that Davis-Bacon and Related Acts requirements apply to installation of composting equipment and associated site work funded through this program? If applicability depends on the nature of the**

work or funding instrument, please identify the circumstances under which Davis-Bacon requirements apply.

DEQ Response: DBRA applies to contracted labor under EPA subgrants. Please see the definition of each funding mechanism in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

67. **Will DEQ provide the applicable wage determination? Exhibit F refers to a wage determination "attached hereto," but none is attached.**

    DEQ Response: See the Davis-Bacon resources provided by the EPA and the Department of Labor, including FAQ.

68. **Are prevailing-wage compliance administration costs (payroll review, worker interviews, BOLI fees, third-party compliance support) allowable and reimbursable project costs?**

    DEQ Response: It is the awardee's responsibility to determine compliance with BOLI.

69. **For a project over $250,000, how does DEQ expect BABA applicability to be documented for manufactured products versus construction materials, and when must manufacturer certification letters be obtained relative to purchase orders?**

    DEQ Response: This information is provided in good faith to provide technical assistance. it is not necessarily comprehensive or definitive of all BABA-related requirements and does not constitute legal advice. Please see the following resources, and more information will be provided in the agreement.

70. **If BABA compliance increases equipment cost after award, will DEQ consider a budget amendment?**

    DEQ Response: Applicants should account for potential BABA-related costs during application development.

71. **Under 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D, may an applicant that has already selected a design/technology partner before award use that firm, and what sole-source documentation will DEQ require?**

    DEQ Response: This will be addressed within the award agreement.

72. **Follow-up to the prior engineering/design question: DEQ's posted response appears to address documentation of food waste currently going to landfill rather than the eligibility of engineering, design and permitting expenses. Please clarify whether engineering, final design, permitting and related professional services incurred after execution of a Subgrant Agreement are**

eligible project costs, or whether DEQ considers any such costs to be ineligible pre-project or planning expenses.

DEQ Response: Please see the definition of each funding instrument and eligible project expenses in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. In general, engineering and design are considered eligible expenses if these costs are necessary for a measurable increase in capacity to process food waste by the end of the project period.

73. **The NOFO states that projects are eligible to begin after DEQ signs and executes the award agreement. Does this mean DEQ will not authorize reimbursement of any costs or commitments incurred before agreement execution, including deposits or purchase commitments for long-lead equipment, or may DEQ authorize specific pre-award costs under 2 CFR 200.458?**

    DEQ Response: Budgets should only include costs that occur within the project period identified in the final agreement with DEQ.

74. **Will any federal or state interest, lien, covenant, or recorded notice attach to the real property on which grant-funded site improvements are constructed? Does DEQ treat site improvements as equipment or as real property under 2 CFR 200.311/200.313?**

    DEQ Response: No, consistent with 2 CFR 200.313, unless instructed otherwise on the official award document, this award term, or at closeout, the recipient or subrecipient, including a subrecipient of a State or an Indian Tribe, may keep the equipment and continue to use it on the project originally funded through this assistance agreement or on other federally funded projects whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by Federal funds.

75. **Section 43 requires maintaining the equipment for its 8-year useful life. What are DEQ's expectations on sale, transfer, or change of control of the facility during that period?**

    DEQ Response: This will be addressed within the award agreement.

76. **What audit obligations apply to a for-profit recipient? Section 27 requires compliance with 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F, which by its terms applies to non-federal entities.**

    DEQ Response: This will be addressed within the award agreement.

77. **Section 12(c) permits immediate suspension on a federal funding pause, with work during suspension "at risk of non-payment." Will DEQ reimburse costs incurred and non-cancellable commitments made before the suspension notice is received?**

DEQ Response: If this occurs, payments will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

78. What is Guidehouse's authority relative to DEQ on payment approval and compliance determinations, and are Guidehouse determinations appealable to DEQ?

DEQ Response: Guidehouse is responsible for reviewing project expenses and supporting documentation to confirm that costs are eligible under 2 CFR Part 200, other applicable federal laws and regulations, and the terms of the subgrant agreement. Guidehouse will submit expenses it recommends for payment to DEQ for review and approval. Guidehouse's recommendations do not constitute final payment approval; DEQ retains final authority over payment approval and compliance determinations.

79. How will DEQ treat confidential or trade-secret information in applications and reports (tonnage, pricing, customer data) under Oregon's public records law? Is there a process for marking material as exempt?

DEQ Response: If you wish to retain the confidentiality of any information in your application, please state this in the application and DEQ will treat said information as confidential to the extent allowed by law. Information will be disclosed if it does not qualify as a trade secret or the public interest requires disclosure.

80. Will the Exhibit A food waste capacity and utilization projections be treated as good-faith estimates, or as performance commitments enforceable under Section 13(b)?

DEQ Response: Projections should be done with strong and defined methodology as part of a good-faith estimate.

81. When will EPA complete its cross-cutter determinations, and what is the expected impact on the award and project schedule? If a determination triggers Section 106 or ESA consultation, will the project period be extended accordingly?

DEQ Response: We cannot guarantee EPAs review period. Project must be completed in April of 2029 in advance of DEQ's project end date.

82. Section 8(a) requires prior written DEQ consent for every contract and subcontract. Will DEQ's approval of the workplan and prime contract satisfy this requirement?

DEQ Response: DEQ's approval of the workplan and execution of the prime contract will satisfy the requirement in Section 8(a) for contracts and subcontracts that are identified in those approved documents.

Small-Scale Questions from WebGrants

Please note: Some questions have been reworded or removed where they were duplicative, unclear, or required clarification. Similarly, we did not include technical questions about WebGrants. These adjustments were made to ensure we could provide the most accurate and helpful responses possible.

83. I would like to add another person to the application, but am not seeing where to do that. Any advice?

DEQ Response: Are you trying to add another user to application (i.e. to assist you with working on the proposal)? Or are you seeking to add another partner/organization as a co-applicant?

84. Following up on my prior email, but can't tell how to reply to that. I need to add an additional user to this grant so my coworker and I can work on it together. Can I get help on that? Thanks!

DEQ Response: Multiple accounts associated to the same organization can access one application. The additional contacts would just need to be added in the general information section of their application. Each person does need to register though. This is located below the "Primary Contact".

85. May I add a collaborator from within my organization to work in the Web Grants portal, or may only one individual have a login?

DEQ Response: Multiple accounts associated to the same organization can access one application. The additional contacts would just need to be added in the general information section of their application. Each person does need to register though. This is located below the "Primary Contact".

86. Would a modular food waste processing system integrating black soldier fly larvae, vermicomposting, and moisture recovery qualify as eligible infrastructure under the Small-Scale Grant Opportunity? Would funding support equipment fabrication, installation, and commissioning of a pre-commercial demonstration system intended to establish measurable food waste processing capacity in Oregon? May a Washington-registered LLC apply if the proposed equipment, demonstration operations, and resulting food waste recovery benefits would be located in Oregon?

DEQ Response: Yes, the infrastructure listed is eligible for funding under this opportunity.

Pre-commercial demonstration activities may be eligible for the small-scale funding. However, this grant is intended to fund projects and technologies that are ready to show measurable amounts of food waste recovered from landfill. If

a technology is still in the research and design phase, this may not be the best funding match.

The organization can be registered in Washington, however food waste recovered from landfill must originate from Oregon. All proposed projects must comply with local, state, and federal regulations and permitting requirements.

87. **I would like to apply for the FWIP Small Scale. Will there be another opportunity to attend the Pre-Bid webinar? Is it required of us to attend before submitting the application?**

    DEQ Response: There won't be another pre-bid conference but the slides can be found on our webpage

    Attending the pre-bid conference is not a requirement for applying for the grant.

88. **Will questions regarding this program continue to be answered, and if so, is this email address the appropriate place to submit them? I noticed that page 8 of the pre-bid conference slides for small-scale and large-scale projects states that "Applicants must submit questions and requests for clarification through WebGrants until October 16, 2026, 5:00 p.m. PT." To confirm my understanding, does this deadline apply only to questions submitted through WebGrants, or were all questions and requests for clarifications required to have been submitted by October 16?**

    DEQ Response: See the response to question #26.

89. **For a Small-Scale project that adds food waste processing equipment, can a box truck with a lift gate, used to collect food scraps and surplus produce from partners such as a food bank, be included as a project cost? Is there a limit on how much of the budget it can be?**

    DEQ Response: For this grant opportunity, costs related to food waste processing equipment are eligible; however, a box truck with a lift gate used for collecting or transporting food scraps is not an allowable project cost. The grant does not fund infrastructure for transporting food waste. Additionally, any collection or transportation of food waste must comply with all applicable local and state requirements, including franchise agreements and necessary permits.

90. **Are permit fees and permit-related engineering costs allowable under a Subgrant if they are incurred after the funding agreement is executed?**

    DEQ Response: Permit fees and permit-related engineering costs are allowable under a Subgrant, as long as they occur after the funding agreement is executed and are included in the project budget. Please keep in mind that all projects must be completed by April 2029, so applicants should consider the feasibility of their permitting timelines when planning their projects. Additionally, while

permitting activities are eligible, projects must include an implementation phase; site planning and engineering alone are not sufficient.

91. If the applicant leases or is under a lease-to-own agreement for the project site, what documentation of site control is required?

DEQ Response: Please provide evidence of signed lease at least through the duration of the project period. If the lease expires before the project period ends, please provide a signed letter of intent to lease from the owner of the site.

92. Are indirect costs allowable under a Small-Scale Subgrant, and if so, is there a cap?

DEQ Response: Yes, indirect costs are allowable. Indirect costs must not exceed 15% of salary and fringe. The only exception may be if the applicant has a previously negotiated indirect cost rate agreement with the federal government.

93. We would like to clarify whether or not grant funds can be used for stipends. The idea would be to pay people being trained to be neighborhood composting experts. We would also like to know if funds can be used for food for training events. We see that "entertainment" is not eligible, but want to know if food is included in the definition of entertainment-related costs.

DEQ Response: Funds may be used for stipends for participants being trained as neighborhood composting experts, and they may also be used to purchase food for training events, if using the subgrant funding mechanism. These items are not considered entertainment for the purposes of this grant. Applicants must include these costs as 'participant support costs defined in 2 CFR 200.1' as a budget line item in their subgrant budgets.

See also the definition of Participant.

Note that this type of participant support cost is different from the other funding mechanism described in this RFP, also called Participant Support Costs, which is defined in 2 CFR 1500.1.

94. Thank you for extending the question deadline. 1. Are there limits or requirements related to fish waste that we need to account for in our application? (i.e. having a DEQ permit) 2. We would like to compost fish food waste and also sort it for byproduct use in agriculture and horticulture, such as turning crab shells into crab meal used as a bio-nutrient. Does this qualify? 3. We want to create a program that has three streams of food waste diversion all inclusive of educational and training opportunities. Should we include all three intentions that are part of our workflow or is it best to stick with one activity for this grant: 1. General food compost to soil: expand our very manual process now, including a drop-off for the community at our

current community kitchen on specific days. 2. Create a dedicated workflow for crab shell and fish waste, separate from other compostables. 3. Sorting for byproduct use - examples include but are not limited to: crab meal for fertilizer, bait for fishermen, shell converted to chitin used for plant defense and as a biostimulant.

DEQ Response: What is important is that the application clearly quantifies the increase in tons of food waste diverted from landfill and demonstrates how the proposed activities contribute to that measurable outcome. Educational and training elements may also be included if they support that goal.

Composting fish waste may be eligible as long as the project results in a measurable increase in food waste diverted from landfill and sent to a processing method such as composting.

Producing byproducts such as crab meal, chitin, or other beneficial reuse materials can be described as co-benefits; however, beneficial reuse is not the primary focus of this grant opportunity. This funding is intended to support increasing food waste processing capacity through composting and anaerobic digestion and reducing the amount of food waste sent to landfills.

Applicants may describe multiple components of their workflow if they are part of a coherent project; however, the grant team cannot advise applicants on which program design approach they should pursue.

95. **I am co-director of a non-profit that works in a variety of locations across Oregon with a variety of schools/students/other non-profits, focusing on climate action and climate justice-related projects and initiatives. If we were to apply for funding, it would be a collaborative efforts with a number of partnering schools. My question is, would we need MOUs with all potential partners prior to applying, and/or would they be listed as sub-grantees?**

DEQ Response: Please provide sufficient information to show engaged partnerships for completing the proposed project. Only the entity applying will be under agreement with DEQ.

96. **Can an applicant serve as lead while a partner organization operates the composting site where new processing capacity would be added? If so, what documentation does DEQ expect at application (for example, a letter of commitment or a site access agreement)? For a small-scale project, which applicant costs are eligible in addition to equipment, such as project coordination, monitoring and data collection, and collection fees that are integral to the project? How is the funding mechanism (subgrant or participant support costs) determined for a project like this, and can a single award combine both? Which approvals, permits or agreements must be in**

place at application, and which can be secured after award but before implementation?

DEQ Response: Applying entity is responsible for all deliverables. Documentation proving partnerships needs to be provided. All eligible costs are covered in section 3.3 of the NOFO. Definition of funding mechanisms are also covered in the NOFO, awards cannot combine funding mechanisms. A permit does not need to be in place by the time of application. However, applicants must present a feasible timeline for obtaining the permit and being operational before April 2029. Please note that the lead time to obtain DEQ permits may not be sufficient time given the project period.

97. Is Fish Waste composting into fertilizer and other byproducts allowable?

DEQ Response: See response to question #94.

98. We want to create a program that has three streams of food waste diversion all inclusive of educational and training opportunities. Should we include all three intentions or is it best to stick with one see below: 1. General food compost to soil expansion of our very manual process now, which would also include creating a drop-off for the community at our current community kitchen on specific days. 2.Creating a dedicated workflow for crab shell and fish waste that needs to be separate from other compostables. 3.Sorting for byproduct use - examples include but are not limited to: crab meal for fertilizer, bait for fishermen, shell converted to chitin used for plant defense and as a biostimulant.

DEQ Response: See response to question #94.

99. Are fencing around a compost yard and construction of a simple structure for year-round composting (such as a steel-frame building or shipping containers assembled on site) allowable costs? If the applicant already owns some of the materials, how are those handled, and can the assembly and installation labor be included in the budget?

DEQ Response: Thank you for your question. Fencing and construction costs may be eligible expenses under a subgrant agreement if they are necessary to support the project's primary goal of increasing the amount of food waste diverted from landfill and processed through composting.

Please note that only costs incurred after execution of the funding agreement are eligible for reimbursement. Materials, equipment, or other items purchased before the agreement is executed cannot be reimbursed through the grant.

100. Can the budget include salary and fringe for the applicant's owner or employees doing project work (equipment installation, training, project

reporting, and the permit or registration paperwork the project requires)? If so, what documentation is needed to support these costs, and does an owner have to be paid through payroll?

DEQ Response: Salary costs for the applicant's owner or employees may be included under the subaward funding mechanism when those staff are performing eligible project activities, such as equipment installation, training, project reporting, or completing required permit and registration paperwork.

Salary and wages charged to the grant must be paid through payroll. If an owner is compensated with grant funds, those costs must be processed through payroll. Indirect costs, including fringe benefits, may comprise up to 15% of the total grant funding.

101. How many vendor quotes are required for equipment purchases, and what procurement documentation does the applicant need to keep?

DEQ Response: This will be addressed through the agreements post award.

102. Section 3.1 states that Guidehouse will accept "one application per applicant, per facility location". May a public K-12 school district submit one application to introduce organics collection district-wide (e.g., covering a network of 20+ schools lacking front-of-house organics collection)?

DEQ Response: A public K–12 school district may submit one application that supports the implementation of organics collection systems across multiple schools within the district. For purposes of this funding opportunity, a school district may apply for a project that serves district-wide operations and includes multiple school locations.

Applicants should clearly describe the schools and facilities that will be served by the project, the proposed organics collection activities, and how the project will increase food waste recovery and diversion from landfill.

103. Regarding Question 1.3 in Section 4.2, does DEQ have specific established definitions, thresholds, or mapping/screening tools required to qualify a community or geography as "underserved" or "under-resourced"? Specifically for school-based grant applications, does DEQ recognize standard K–12 metrics (e.g., Title I school status or Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) eligibility percentages) as evidence of serving an under-resourced community?

DEQ Response: There are many ways a community may be considered underserved or under-resourced. For school-based applications, standard K–12 metrics such as Title I status and Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) eligibility rates are acceptable forms of evidence that a school or district serves an under-resourced community.

Applicants may also provide additional information or narrative describing community needs, barriers, demographic factors, or other circumstances that demonstrate how the proposed project will benefit an underserved or under-resourced population. The application should clearly explain the basis for the designation and how the project will support those communities.

104. Does the small-scale Food Waste Processing Infrastructure Grant cover equipment that converts fish-processing waste otherwise destined for landfill into liquid fish hydrolysate fertilizer, rather than compost? Would a grinder, mixing tanks, pumps, and related testing qualify?

DEQ Response: This grant is namely focused on increasing Oregon's food waste composting infrastructure and capacity, so this would not be an eligible expense.